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ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5616  
INFO RUCNMGH/MAGHREB COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS TUNIS 001041

SIPDIS

OES: ROBERTA BARNES AND ELIZABETH TIRPAK

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [KRVC](#) [TPHY](#) [EWWT](#) [TS](#)  
SUBJECT: TUNIS RESPONSE ON MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH  
AUTHORIZATIONS

REF: SECSTATE 94522

¶1. (U) Embassy Tunis confirms that Andrea Donnally will be responsible for coordinating requests to the GOT for all marine scientific research authorizations. Her tour began July 2008 and is scheduled to end July 2010. Beth Mitchell, Commercial/Economic Officer is her back up.

¶2. (SBU) Embassy Tunis recommends requests for research authorization be made as early as possible. The decision making process in Tunisia is highly centralized, which often leads to delays in receiving a response.

¶3. (SBU) Tunisia's navy stringently monitors the coastline in order to protect offshore oil investments and deter illegal immigration. For that reason it is recommended that all requests be submitted as soon as possible in order to prevent any delays and their associated costs.  
DESJARDINS